

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8417
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
CINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 6016

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURK-IS EXECUTIVE BOARD PUTS OFF GENERAL STRIKE DECISION

REF: ANKARA 5866 (DTG 051146Z AUG 77)

1. IN AN APPARENT SETBACK FOR TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC, ON AUGUST 10, MEETING FOR THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE DAY, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TURK-IS REFUSED TO APPROVE TUNC'S CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, TURK-IS WILL INSTEAD SEND
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A MEMORANDUM TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT SETTING OUT ITS DEMANDS. IF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOT MET IN A SHORT TIME, TURK-IS WILL OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY INCLUDE A GENERAL STRIKE. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTEDLY CONTINUED ITS DELIBERATIONS INTO THE EVENING AUGUST 10 TO HAMMER OUT DEMANDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMORANDUM. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN STATES THAT TURK-IS DEMANDS WILL

INCLUDE: TAX REFORM, RAISING THE INCOME ALLOWANCE ABOVE WHICH INCOME TAXES ARE ASSESSED, RAISING MINIMUM WAGES, AND RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TURK-IS AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TURKISH LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. AFTER RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL STRIKE QUESTION, THE TURK-IS EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTEDLY TOOK UP FOR DISCUSSION THE DISK (FEDERATION OF REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNIONS) PROPOSAL FOR FORMATION OF A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT. ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT THE BOARD REJECTED THE CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE WORKING CLASS AS WELL AS THE SUGGESTED FORMATION OF A FRONT TO SAVE TURKISH DEMOCRACY.

4. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION AUGUST 10 WAS APPARENTLY A ROUGH AND TUMBLE AFFAIR. BOTH TUNC AND PRO-JUSTICE PARTY (JP) UNION LEADERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SPOKEN BITTERLY. TUNC'S CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE WAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED, AND A PRO-JP BOARD MEMBER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT BECAUSE A GENERAL STRIKE WOULD BE ILLEGAL, TURK-IS CANNOT APPROVE SUCH A MOVE. IN RESPONSE, TUNC LASHED OUT AT THE BOARD FOR FAILING TO APPROVE HIS PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT EFFECT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S VIRTUAL REJECTION OF TUNC'S GENERAL STRIKE CALL MAY HAVE ON TUNC'S POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE

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FEDERATION. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT SIX LEADERS OF "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" LABOR UNIONS FAILED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 41-MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ON AUGUST 10 AND 11. THEIR ABSENCE MAY INDICATE THAT THEY WERE AWARE IN ADVANCE THAT TUNC'S PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.
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